THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No study has been conducted by the Government. However retail prices of essential commodities are being monitored by this department on day to day basis. It has been observed that the retail prices of gram dal.sugar, potato and onion are now showing a declining trend. Retail prices of wheat, which was steady at Rs. 12 per kg for the last one year, has now shown a marginal **increase** of Rs. 1 per kg since mid of January 2008. Retail prices of gram dal which reached to peak level of Rs. 42.50 per kg during September, 2006 now reduced to Rs. 34 **per kg. Retail** prices of potato, which reached to peak level of Rs. 17 per kg during October, 2006, now reduced to Rs.8 per kg.Retail prices of onion which reached to peak **level** of **Rs.** 23 per kg during September, 2007 now reduced to Rs.8 per kg. Retail prices of **tur dal** have stabilized at Rs. 41 per kg Retail prices of ground nut oil and vanaspati oil **has been** stabilized at Rs. 121 per kg and Rs. 68 per kg since mid of October 2007 and December 2007 respectively. Retail prices of mustard oil show an upward trend during current year and are currently Rs. 70 per kg at Delhi, due to crop damage by cold waves in Rajasthan and other States. Retail prices of Rice, which was earlier showing steady trend at Rs. 15 per kg since the beginning of current year, is now showing an increasing trend since December, 2007 and is now Rs. 18 per kg mainly owing to a hike in MSP and bonus.

(b) Government monitors price movement of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, pulses & edible oil at the highest level and has responded by taking a series of measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of wheat, edible oil and pulses through imports at reduced rates of duty and ban on exports of pulses and wheat. Exports of onion are controlled by using appropriate minimum export prices. As a measure of abundant precaution futures trading in wheat, rice tur and urad has been suspended. State Governments are introduce and enforce stock-limits.

(c) The detail of import of rice, wheat, pulses and edible oil is given in table below:—

	Rice		Wheat		Pulses		Edible Oil	
	Qty.(in tonnes)	Value(in Rs. Lakhs)	Qty.(in Lakh tones)	Value(in Rs Crores)	Qty.(in Lakh tones)	Value(in Rs Crores)	Qty.(in Lakh tones)	Value (in) Rs Crores)
2006-2007	161	40.64	**14.75**	1473.35	22.56	3851.45	42.17	9416.28
2006-2007 Apr-Oct)	159	39.90	9.03	867.86	11.09	1807.26	27.85	6233.80
2007-2008 **Apr-Oct)**	142	32.48	3.71	477.11	15.31	2818.58	31.70	6793.82

SOURCES: DGC1S

(d) The future position and shortfall of agricultural products are indicated by demand and supply projections for the Eleventh Five Year Plan prepared by a Working Group of the Planning Commission is given in table below:—

Table: Production and Demand of Foodgrains, Oilseeds and Sugarcane during the 11th Plan period

Production

Projected Production (Million Tonnes)								
Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse cereals	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Sugarcane
1	2	3	4	5(=2+3+4)	6	7(=5+6)	8	9
2007-08	93.59	69.40	36.22	199.20	14.03	213.23	32.64	312.37
2008-09	94.56	70.11	36.59	201.26	14.51	215.77	35.42	317.66
2009-10	95.54	70.84	36.97	203.36	15.01	218.37	38.43	322.95
2010-11	96.54	71.59	37.36	205.49	15.53	221.02	41.70	328.24
2011-12	97.56	72.34	37.76	207.66	16.06	223.72	45.24	333.54

Demand

Demand (Million Tonnes)								
Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Sugarcane
1	2	3	4	5(=2+3+4)	6	7(=5+6)	8	9
2007-08	90.91	71.19	35.14	197.25	16.77	214.02	45.56	. 261.75
2008-09	92.87	72.72	35.89	201.49	17.51	219.01	47.43	275.91
2009-10	94.83	74.26	3665	205.75	18.29	224.04	49.35	290.74
2010-11	96.81	75.80	37.42	210.04	19.08	229.12	51.34	306.28
2011-12	98.79	77.36	38.19	214.35	19.91	234.26	53.39	322.54

Gap between Production and Demand

Gap (Million Tonnes)								
Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Sugarcane
1	2	3	4	5(=2+3+4)	6	7(=5+6)	8	9
2007-08	2.67	-1.79	1.08	1.95	**-2.74**	-0.79	-12.92	50.62
2008-09	1.69	-2.61	0.70	-.023	-.300	-3.23	-12.01	**41.75**
2009-10	0.71	-3.41	0.32	-2.39	-3.28	-5.67	-10.92	**32.21**
2010-11	-0.27	-4.22	-0.06	-4.55	-3.56	**-8.11**	**9.65**	**21.97**
2011-12	-1.23	-5.02	-0.43	-6.69	-3.85	**-10.54**	**-8.15**	**11.00**

Consumer Courts/Forums

t 827. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumer protection courts/forums have been established at the State level and district level;

(b) whether Government provide any assistance to the State Governments for the establishment of above courts/forums;

(c) if so, the funds allocated during the last three years for this purpose, State-wise;

(d) the number of cases pending in consumer protection courts/forums at the State level or district level and the effective steps proposed to be taken for speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The establishment of State Commissions and District Fora and providing infrastructural facilities, manpower etc. for their effective functioning is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Central Government provided a One-Time financial assistance for strengthening infrastructural facilities of Consumer Fora to the extent of Rs. 61.80 crore during 1995-96 & Rs. 10.20 crore during 2004-05 to the States/UTs. Under the scheme of "Integrated Project on Consumer Protection", additional financial assistance of Rs. 40.32 crore has been extended to States during 2006-07 to meet the gap in in frastructure of Consumer Fora. A further sum of Rs. 24.31 crore has been released to States so far under this scheme during the current financial year.

(c) The financial assistance released to States/UTs during last 3 years is as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1.	200405	10.20 (Under One-Time Grant)
2.	2005-06	NIL
3.	2006-07	40.32 (Additional assistance under the scheme of "Integrated Project on Consumer Protection")

The State-wise details of the financial assistance released during 2004-05 & 2006-07 are given at Statement I & II respectively *(See* below).

(d) Statement of cases pending in Consumer Fora at the State & District levels as provided by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) and States/ UTs are at Statement-Ill & IV. *(See* below)

Some of the important steps undertaken by the Central Government to improve functioning of Consumer Fora and facilitate speedy disposal of cases therein, are given below:

(0 Financial assistance is extended to the States/UTs to supplement their efforts for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora to facilitate their effective functioning.